

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes Ammonia Powered Vessel

Story on page 2



Front page caption: Left right: Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Climate Change Ambassador Ruleta Camacho-Thomas

Photo courtesy: Wayne Mariette

Antigua and Barbuda welcomes Ammonia Powered Vessel



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



Andrew Hoare

A ship that utilizes cutting-edge technologies to provide its power, was warmly welcomed into Antigua and Barbuda by an official party that included the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne among other high-ranking officials of the government, the diplomatic corps and academia.

The vessel is the *Green Pioneer*, which is the world's first ocean-going vessel that is powered by ammonia. The vessel is a project utilizing its alternative energy source that would, over time, hopefully drive not only ocean-going vessels but industry as well. The company behind the project is **Fortescue**, an Australian company that is the fourth largest mining company in the world.

Prime Minister Browne expressed his delight with the visit of the *Green Pioneer* noting that Antigua and Barbuda has always been at the forefront of the climate fight by calling on countries to reduce emissions while making the transition to green ener-



gy. Recognising the importance of this new technology, the prime minister said his government would be interested in making the transition to viable, affordable, clean renewable technologies.

The prime minister described the technology as 'extremely exciting' and he expressed a desire to have fur-

ther discussions with **Fortescue** to see how they could work along with the government to explore these and other emerging technologies.

"Whereas some of us may have felt a little daunted by the lack of progress especially with the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, this type of development



Ambassador Dwight Gardiner

augurs well for the transition that we all hope will happen as soon as possible. So Antigua and Barbuda obviously would want to be one of the early pioneers in using this fuel. We are hoping that we can be part of the value-chain so there is no reason why we can't have our own ammonia production plant here," he declared.

Representative of Fortescue, Andrew Hoare spoke of some of the challenges involved in bring such a vessel as Green Pioneer into operation.

"Binging her into operation required new safety frameworks, new technical standards and close cooperation with regulators around the world – in effect, helping to change the rules so that zero-carbon fuels can move from theory to practice. She is not simply demonstrating technology; she has helped drive regulatory and operational change across maritime system," he explained.

Antigua and Barbuda's representative to the International Maritime Organisation and the head of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS), Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, welcomed



Sir Rodney Williams and PM Gaston Browne received a tour of the Green Pioneer



the *Green Pioneer* as it exemplifies the transition from carbon-intensive fuels to green fuels in action.

"While we at the IMO are working on the Global Fuel Standard and the necessary pricing mechanisms to ensure an equitable green transition, **Fortescue** leads in engineering innovation. By promoting green ammonia and alternative power sources, this vessel demonstrates that the Green Corridors discussed at the IMO can, and should, extend across the Caribbean," he suggested.

The evening's proceedings were chaired by Dr. Branson Belle of the Centre of Excellence for Oceanog-

raphy and the Blue Economy at the University of the West Indies FIC. Port Manager, Darwin Telemaque and Ambassador for Climate Change, Ruleta Camacho-Thomas also addressed the gathering.

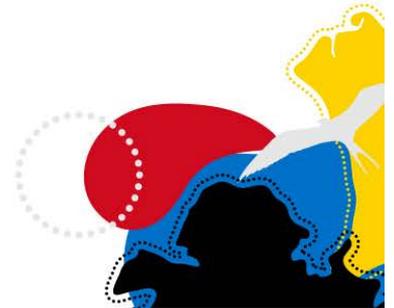
PM Browne took the opportunity to invite **Fortescue** and *Green Pioneer* to return and to be part of the activities surrounding the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting here in St. John's from November 1 – 4. The vessel demonstrated its commitment to the Commonwealth by mounting several streamers of Commonwealth flags.

Parents Urged To Support The OECS Students' Census



Census

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Parents and guardians across Antigua and Barbuda are being urged to support the completion of the OECS Students' Census, which is scheduled to close this week. With the deadline fast approaching, the Ministry of Education is encouraging families to ensure that every student takes part, noting that the nation still has "some way to go" before reaching its 80% completion target.

Ministry of Education officials have expressed concern about the current participation rate among students. To date, Antigua and Barbuda has achieved only 55% participation in the census, meaning that a significant amount of our students' voices remain unheard. The level of participation recorded so far has also placed the country behind most of the other OECS Member States, underscoring the urgent need to improve completion rates.

The census conducted simultaneously across all OECS Member States will provide essential data to help Ministries of Education understand students' realities, plan effectively, and strengthen education systems.

The Ministry is therefore appealing to all parents, guardians, teachers, principals, and students to work together to boost completion rates in the remaining days. This effort provides the opportunity for each student to be heard, to be counted, and to influence the future of education in our nation.

As the census enters its final days, the Ministry encourages all parents to take a few minutes to assist their children in completing the online

questionnaire. With nationwide cooperation, the Ministry is confident that the country can meet and surpass its target.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Antigua and Barbuda completes Review of United Nations Country Implementation Plan (CIP) for 2025



Chair of the Cabinet Subcommittee on SDG's and Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene

Stakeholders from a number of key sectors completed a review of the United Nations Country Implementation Plan (CIP) for 2025 as well as unveiling the vision and strategic direction of the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) for 2026.

Facilitated by the UN Country Team in St. John's, the consultation brought together representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs and trade, finance, environment, information technologies and several non-government organizations.

In his opening remarks, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, who is also the Chair of the Cabinet Sub-Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), noted that for a Small Island Developing States such as Antigua and Barbuda, the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) is far more than a document; it is a lifeline and a launch-pad.

“In this regard, the CIP, with its rigorous review and forward-planning process, is an indispensable tool. It empowers us to translate ambition



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim

into tangible action and is the operational bridge connecting our domestic aspirations to our international commitments, ensuring coherence between the 2030 Agenda, the priorities of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and our national Medium-Term Development Strategy,” he noted.

Also addressing the opening exercise, was the MSDCF Focal Point and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim, noted that under the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) spanning 2002 to 2026 period, the Country Implementation Plan signifies the UN's unwavering pledge to support Antigua and Barbuda.

“It is a commitment to help us advance our national initiatives to achieve essential milestones in critical areas such as economics, resilience, equality, and well-being, and our capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other exogenous shocks,” he stated.



Head of the Antigua and Barbuda UN Country Team, Andrea Andrew

UN Resident Coordinator for the Eastern Caribbean, Simon Springett, described the one-day reflection and planning as more than an exercise in reporting; it is a reaffirmation of the shared commitment to advancing sustainable development, protecting the most vulnerable, and strengthening the resilience of this remarkable twin-island nation.

“Over the past year, Antigua and Barbuda—like many countries—were impacted by the financial constraints that the UN faced during the reporting period. In some cases, implementation was delayed; in others, priorities were reshaped to ensure the most urgent needs could be met.

“Yet while the context shifted, one thing did not: The United Nations' unwavering commitment to supporting Antigua and Barbuda, and all the Member States we serve,” he remarked.

Head of the UN Country Office, Andrea Andrew led the discussion on the CIP with the active involvement of other members of the UN team and the other attendees.

Passport Losses Climb Sharply, Cabinet Weighs New Measures

The Passport Office of Antigua and Barbuda has launched an urgent public awareness campaign after reporting a sharp and troubling rise in the number of citizens losing their travel documents, a trend officials say is placing growing pressure on national security systems and government finances.

Speaking on the matter last Friday, Maurice Merchant, Director General of Communications, said the government's attention was recently drawn to what he described as a "very serious and concerning development" involving hundreds of misplaced passports over the past two years.

"So far for this year alone, and we are only in February, there have already been 73 reports of lost passports," Merchant disclosed. "In 2025, the number reached 440, and in 2024 there were 360. That trend is of significant concern."

Officials say the figures represent lost—not stolen—documents, noting that cases of theft remain comparatively low. However, the volume of misplaced passports still creates substantial risks, including identity theft, fraudulent use, and the potential misuse of national travel documents.



Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister, Maurice Merchant

According to Merchant, each lost passport triggers a costly and time-consuming administrative process. Reports must first be made to the police, followed by investigations. The Immigration Department conducts checks to determine whether the document is being used improperly, and the passport must then be cancelled within the national system to prevent fraud.

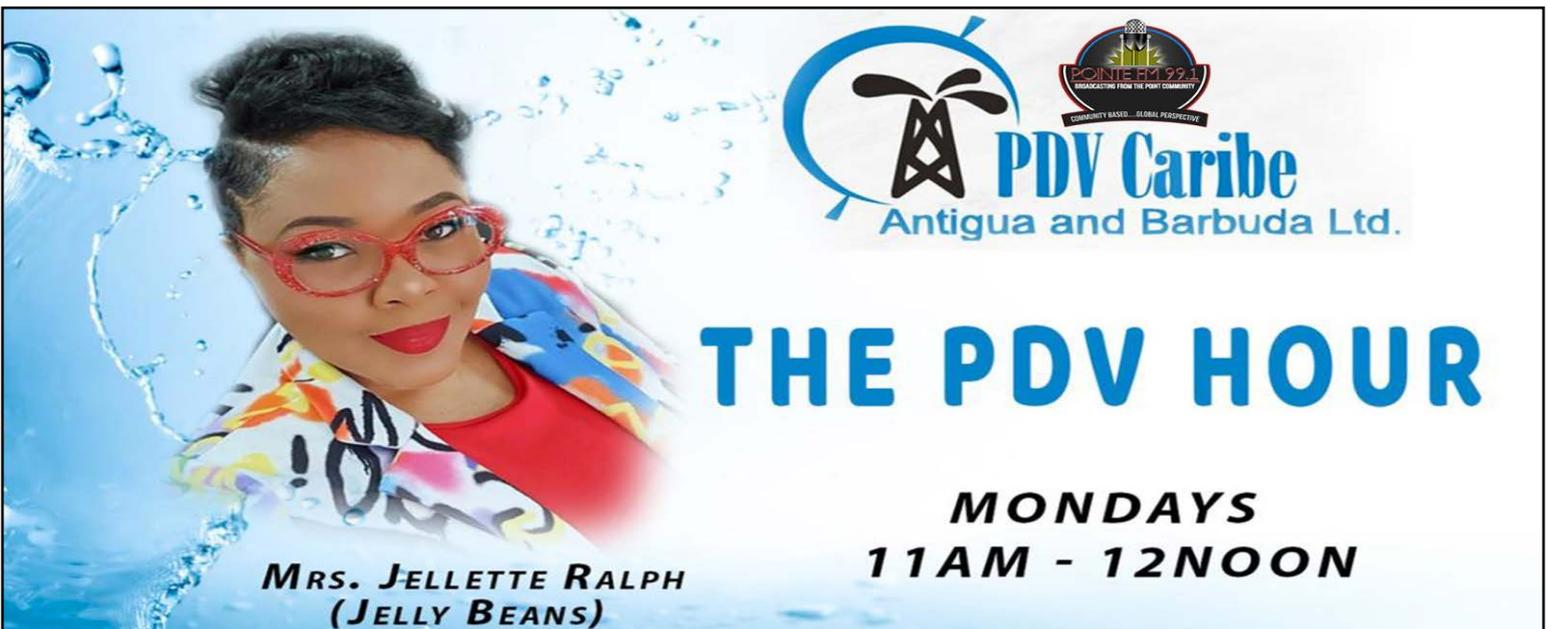
"All of that takes manpower and resources," he said. "It creates an unnecessary financial and administrative burden on the state."

The government also bears the majority of the production costs for passports, which Merchant described as expensive security documents that "do not come cheap." With replacement fees currently set at EC\$200, the Passport Office believes the relatively low cost may be contributing to what officials view as carelessness among some citizens.

As part of its response, the office has begun a public education campaign aimed at sensitizing citizens to the importance of safeguarding their travel documents. The initiative will highlight the dangers of identity theft, proper storage practices at home and abroad, and the broader national implications of lost passports.

At the policy level, the Passport Office is preparing proposals for the Cabinet's consideration this week. Among the options under review are increasing replacement fees to encourage greater responsibility and extending the waiting period before individuals can apply for a new passport, except in genuine emergencies.

Merchant stressed that emergency requests would not include discretionary travel such as vacations.



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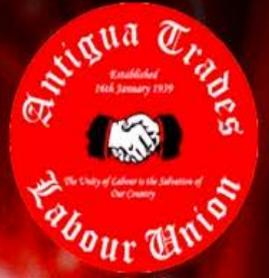
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Officials Monitoring Students in Cuba as Sanctions Tighten



Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is closely monitoring the welfare of its nationals studying in Cuba as tighter sanctions imposed by the United States continue to strain that island's economy and disrupt key imports, including oil supplies.

Director General of Communications Maurice Merchant said Cabinet was recently briefed on the situation and assured that students remain safe and committed to completing their studies despite the challenges facing the country.

"We have been monitoring the situation and maintaining contact with our students," Merchant said, noting that the government has been receiving regular updates through diplomatic and regional channels.

According to the briefing delivered by Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene, the students have indicated they are prepared to remain in Cuba and continue their education through to completion.

Rather than acting independently, the government is working as part of a coordinated regional approach through CARICOM. Merchant revealed Carib-



bean diplomatic representatives met as recently as 17th February to assess conditions on the ground in Cuba and provide guidance to their respective capitals.

That collaboration has produced contingency and emergency response plans designed to protect students from across the region, including those from Antigua and Barbuda. Safety protocols and support frameworks have been developed to address a range of scenarios should conditions deteriorate.

Officials say the primary focus is ensuring students' security while allowing them to continue benefiting from

Cuba's longstanding educational partnerships with Caribbean nations.

"The government stands ready to provide whatever assistance is necessary should the situation worsen," Merchant explained, emphasizing that alternative arrangements are being explored as a precaution.

For now, the government says it will continue its close coordination with regional partners while maintaining direct communication with students and families, underscoring that their safety and academic progress remain top priorities.



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The Annual Cardiac Symposium Concludes at the weekend

The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Antigua and Barbuda hosted its 7th Annual Cardiac Symposium on Sunday at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa, with in-person attendance reaching full capacity. The strong turnout of physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, medical students, and public health stakeholders underscored the growing national concern surrounding cardiovascular disease and stroke, the leading causes of death in Antigua and Barbuda.

This year's Symposium which was chaired by Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis, Medical Director of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and Friend to the Foundation, delivered timely, evidence-based updates addressing the most critical risk factors driving heart attacks and stroke in the region. The discussions emphasized prevention, early detection, aggressive management of hypertension and dyslipidemia, and improved public awareness of warning signs.

Dr. Victor Elliott issued a direct warning: "Acute coronary syndrome which includes 'heart attacks', according to both the WHO and PAHO, is the number one killer of Antiguan and Barbudans. More lives can be saved if people recognize the symptoms and respond urgently by getting to the hos-



pital. Chest pain cannot wait."

Co-Founder and President of the Foundation, Dr. Georgette Meade, reinforced the importance of proactive health management.

"Sadly, we are losing many of our loved ones suddenly. We must get regular check-ups, know our numbers, and actively manage our risk factors for heart attacks and strokes. Doing so will allow us to enjoy healthier years with our families and friends," said Dr. Meade, Consultant Cardiologist.

The Foundation was honoured by the continued patronage the Governor General Sir Dr. Rodney Williams, who delivered congratulatory remarks and commended the sustained impact of the Symposium in advancing national health priorities.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Michael Joseph stated that the Symposium aligns with the Government's policy and strategic health objectives.



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Ministry of Tourism Honours 5 Retirees with Combined 99 Years of Service

The Ministry of Tourism hosted a special staff team-building dinner on Saturday night, in an evening dedicated to honouring its past, celebrating its present and shaping its future.

The event brought together members of staff in a spirit of appreciation and camaraderie, while paying tribute to five retirees whose ninety-nine combined years of dedicated service have significantly contributed to the growth and development of the tourism industry.

Among those honoured were Terrence Charles, who served the Ministry for 21 years, along with Phillip George, who gave 23 years of service. Carlene Gilkes was recognized for her seven years of contribution, while Paula Claire Joseph was acknowledged for five years of service. Naomi Elizabeth Mason, the longest-serving retiree honoured on the evening, was celebrated for her remarkable 43 years of commitment to the tourism sector.

Collectively, the retirees represent nearly a century of institutional knowledge, dedication and professionalism that helped strengthen the Ministry's work and advance the country's tourism product.

Permanent Secretary, Sean Cenac, expressed sincere gratitude to the honourees for their lasting impact on the Ministry and the wider industry, while also underscoring the importance of unity among current staff members.

"Our retirees have played an integral role in building the foundation of the tourism industry as we know it today," Cenac said. "Their years of commitment and excellence in service have positioned our sector for continued growth. As we honour their legacy, we must also look ahead. Strengthening unity and collaboration among our team is essential as we work together to drive innovation, improve performance and advance sustainable tourism development. Our collective efforts will shape the future of this



Ministry and the industry we serve."

The dinner also served as a timely reminder of the value of teamwork and shared purpose as the Ministry continues to pursue strategic investment opportunities and initiatives aimed at strengthening the tourism sector.

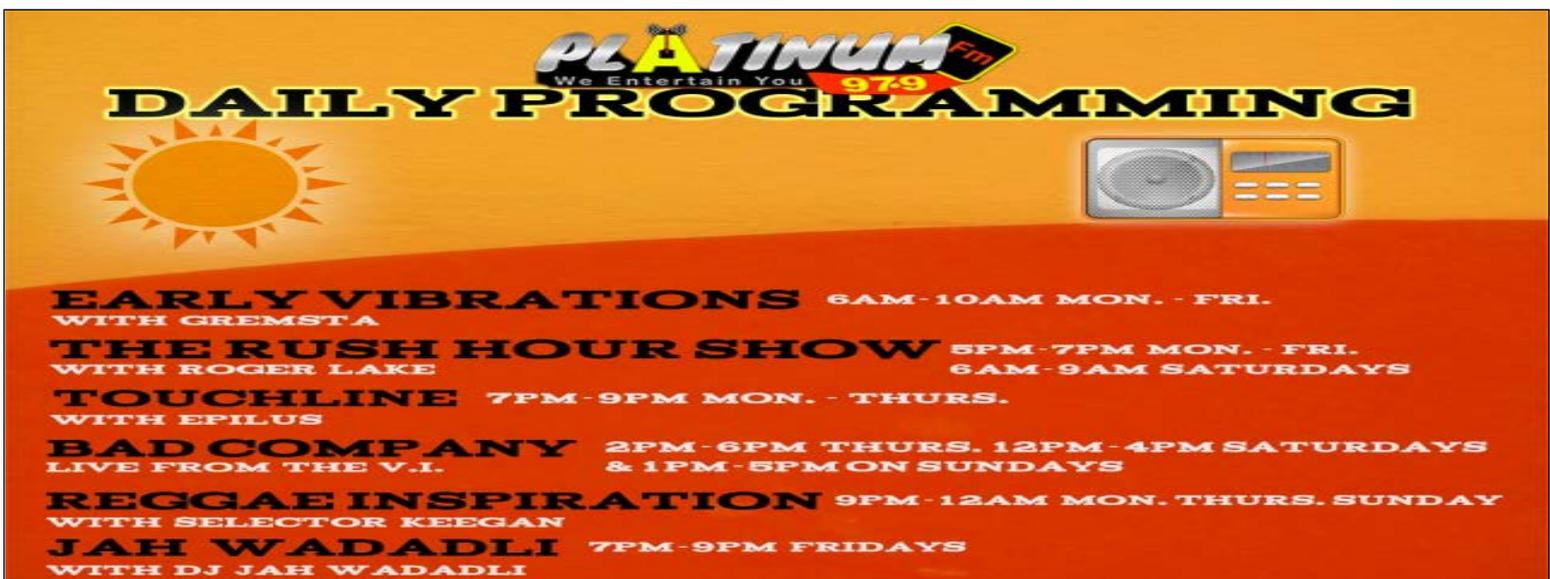
As the Ministry moves forward, it does so grounded in the achievements of the past and strengthened by a renewed commitment to collaboration, excellence and service.

More Than Numbers: Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Reflects a Year of Care and Commitment

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has released its 2025 “By the Numbers” snapshot, a powerful look at the scale of care provided to the nation between January and November.

Behind every figure is a story of a life touched: nearly 30,000 emergency visits, 24,000 outpatient connections, and 828 new lives welcomed into the community. With over 720,000 diagnostic and treatment services delivered, SLBMC remains an essential foundation of health for Antigua and Barbuda.

Hospital leadership emphasizes that while these figures show a high volume of service, their true value lies in the hands of the dedicated professionals who show up every day to care for people’s health needs.

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New Date for National Music Awards Ceremony



A new date has been announced for the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda National Music Awards (ABNMA), according to the Ministry of Creative Industries and the Department of Culture.

In a media release, the ministry said that due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict beyond its control, the awards ceremony, originally scheduled for February 26th, 2026, will now be held

on **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026**, at the American University of Antigua (AUA) Conference Center.

“While this adjustment was unavoidable, the Department remains fully committed to delivering a prestigious and seamless celebration of excellence within Antigua and Barbuda’s music and entertainment industry. All other event details remain unchanged,

including award categories and programme elements,” the statement explained.

The organisers say they regret any inconvenience this change may have caused to their nominees, partners, sponsors, and invited guests.

Additionally, they say the invitations issued with the original date will still be honoured.

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Multiple Individuals Charged in Ongoing Fraud Investigations



The police have arrested and formally charged several individuals in connection with multiple fraud-related offences, following investigations surrounding an institution.

Jevon Turner of Cades Bay was charged with Obtaining Money by Means of a Forged Instrument, after he allegedly obtained EC\$5,607.12 using a forged cheque. He was further charged with Uttering a Forged Document in connection with the same incident.

The offence reportedly occurred on 19 February 2026 in St. John's.

Sean O'Neil of All Saints was also charged with Obtaining Money by Means of a Forged Instrument, after he allegedly obtained EC\$5,945.45 using a forged cheque. He was additionally charged with Uttering a Forged Document.

That offence likewise occurred on

19 February 2026 in St. John's.

In a separate matter, 21-year-old Clem Royer of Golden Grove was arrested and charged with multiple offences, including:

Obtaining Money by Means of a Forged Instrument in the sum of EC\$18,450.12, Forgery, and Uttering a Forged Document, arising from an incident on 11 February 2026 in St. John's.

Royer was further charged with: Obtaining Money by Means of a Forged Instrument in the sum of EC\$5,330.45, Forgery, and Uttering a Forged Document, stemming from a separate incident on 19 February 2026 in St. John's.

Meanwhile, Dondre Houston of Parham was arrested and charged with: Obtaining Money by Means of a Forged Instrument in the sum of EC\$22,747.00, Forgery, and Uttering

a Forged Document, in relation to an incident on 10 December 2025 at Village Walk.

Houston was additionally charged with Forgery and Uttering a Forged Document connected to another incident on 18 February 2026 in St. John's.

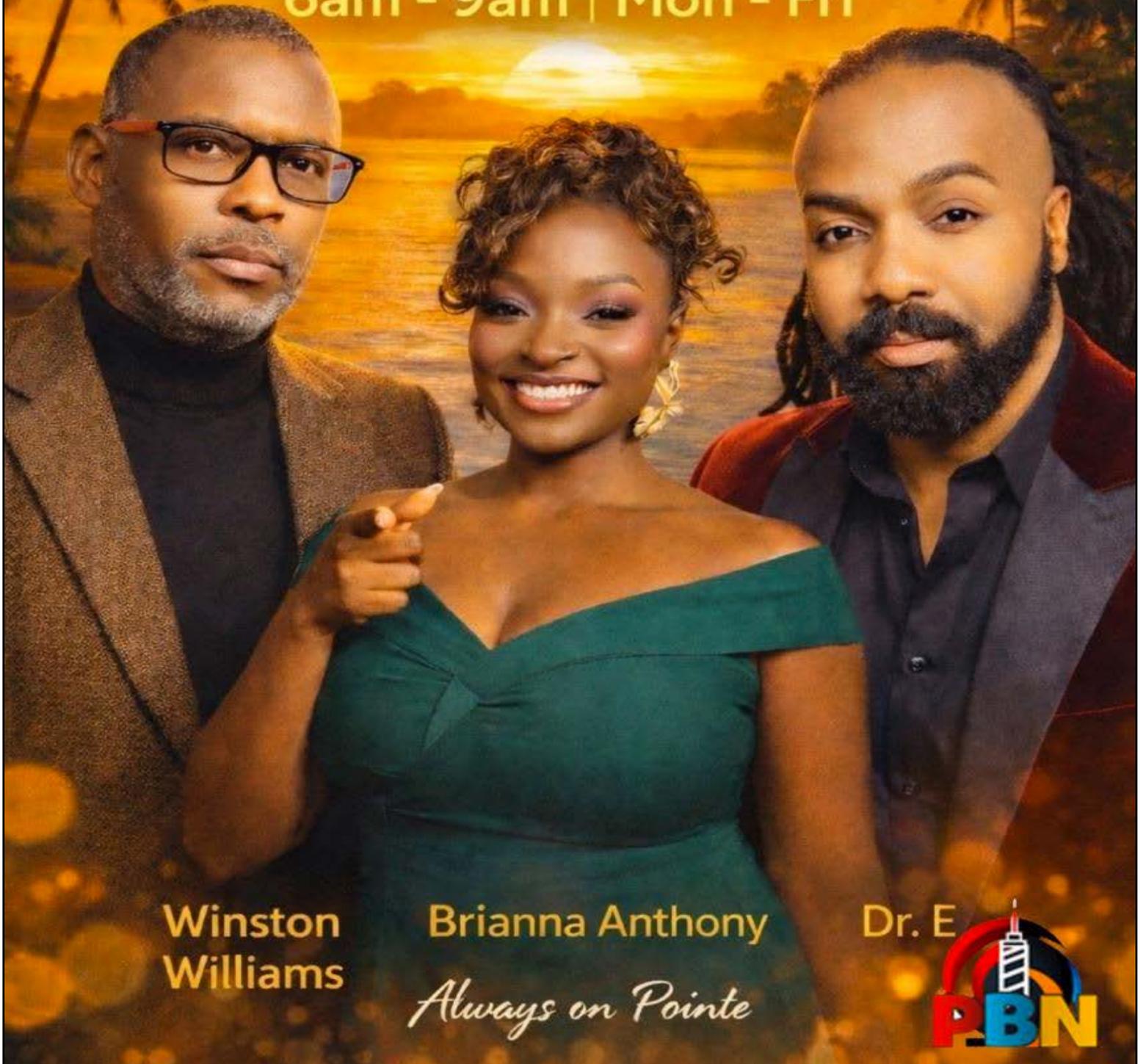
All accused individuals are expected to appear before the court as investigations continue.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda urges businesses and members of the public to remain vigilant when conducting transactions involving cheques and other negotiable instruments.

Anyone with information related to fraudulent activities is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).

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Can There Be Black History (Heritage) Month Without The History of Africa? 69



Dr. Lenworth Johnson

Heritage Month in Antigua and Barbuda (the month of February) is a welcome offshoot of Black History Month, celebrated in the United States. Black History Month began as Negro History and Literature Week in 1924, the brainchild of the famed Black American educator Carter G. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson chose the month of February because it is the birth month of President Abraham Lincoln, who freed the slaves in America, and also the birth month of the distinguished American author and Pan-Africanist W.E.B. Dubois. Negro History and Literature Week became simply Negro History Week in 1926. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month. Heritage Month in Antigua and Barbuda focuses on the

country's history, which is admirable.

In his classic book "The Mis-Education of the Negro," first published in 1933, Dr. Woodson advocated, among other things, reclaiming African American history, culture, and identity as essential steps toward liberation and progress. Similarly, I have long advocated teaching African history at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The underlying reason is to instill pride in our Black race.

A review of the Caribbean History and Caribbean Studies syllabi at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) levels shows that African history is scarcely mentioned as an area of study. The only substantive mention is an "Overview of West African societies in the

15th century: economic, religious and political organization and social relations."

It is essential, of course, to study Caribbean history, and I commend those hardworking people at the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) who put the courses together. Yet Afro-Caribbean history did not begin with the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which commenced in the late fifteenth century. Afro-Caribbean history, in my view, begins with the history of Africa and the Black man in Africa. Further, when I say the history of Africa, I mean its history from the beginning of time – its geography, geology, politics, society, economy, etc. The entire history of Africa must be studied, the good and the bad, warts and all, with appropriate detail and intensity at the primary,



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secondary, and tertiary levels. Black history is no different from the history of other races, with literary, scientific, and engineering achievements, wars and rebellions, great kingdoms, political machinations, etc.

Pride in our Black race will be fostered when we read and learn that Egypt was first a Black country and that Egypt is the cradle of civilization. Cheik Anta Diop and other historians have proven this time and again with irrefutable evidence. Indeed, it is generally recognized that Africa is the mother of humanity.

The history of Egypt goes back over 8000 years. Egypt is replete with accomplishments in science, architecture, engineering (witness the Pyramids), philosophy, medicine (the great Egyptian Imhotep is the real father of medicine), agriculture, and many other areas. The great Kingdoms of Africa must be studied – the Kingdoms of Mali, Ghana, Songhai, Asante, Aksum, Kush, Zimbabwe, and so on. So must the great Kings and Queens – Mansa Musa, Shaka Zulu, Sunni Ali, Hatshepsut, Sundiata Keita, Nzinga, etc.

One ground on which European enslavers wrongly justified the institution of slavery was the claim that Black people were subhuman and could not reason like other races. As evidence, they would say that Black people had no history and had never accomplished anything of consequence. This attitude still permeates Caucasian (white) thinking today.

It is no accident that President Trump recently reposted a meme depicting President Obama and his wife, Michelle, as apes; this was meant to show that Black people, even one who has risen to be President of the United States, are less than human. It is no accident either that certain school districts in Florida and Texas have removed or watered down Black history events and data from their textbooks. This is meant to show, again, that Black people have no history.

We must resist this effort to demean and dismiss our history. As Marcus

Garvey said, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.” Peter Tosh also put it beautifully – “Don’t care where you come from; as long as you are a Black man, you are an African.” There must be a way to include more African history in Caribbean History and Caribbean Studies at the CSEC and CAPE levels. I know that introducing new curricula and textbooks takes a long time; however, I think it is worth it to do something that will increase pride in our race. Alternatively, and this is my preference, African History should be studied as a standalone subject at all stages of our education system.

Should there be Black History (Heri-

tage) Month without substantive consideration of Africa’s history? I think not. And I think most people, upon reflection, would answer no. For completeness, should more African history be included in the CSEC and CAPE curricula, preferably as a standalone subject? I definitely think yes.

Dr. Lenworth Johnson is a chartered accountant and an attorney-at-law, as well as a former member of the Senate, the Upper House of Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda. In 2024, he graduated from the University of the West Indies with the degree of Doctor of Education. He is a member of the Antigua Barbuda Airport Authority.




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**JUDGING STARTS
AT THE END OF
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US tells Caribbean countries there are alternatives to Cuban healthcare programme

The United States Embassy in Barbados Friday said that there are “alternative methods available” to Caribbean countries to recruit healthcare workers as it continued its criticism of the Cuban health brigade programme to the region.

In a post on its Facebook page, the embassy said it “is committed to holding accountable Cuban regime officials, foreign government officials, and others for facilitating forced labour in Cuba’s medical missions.

“By participating in these programmes, despite known human rights abuses, foreign governments become complicit in the regime’s tactics. Their actions directly contribute to the abuses of Cuban workers,” the statement said.

“There are alternative methods available for Caribbean nations to recruit foreign medical workers and ethically meet the healthcare needs of their people. The United States calls on all governments and peoples to reject forced labour schemes and join us in demanding accountability and respect for human rights.”

Earlier this week, the US government said it had not “recently” spoken to St Lucia about international education after that country’s Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre said he had been asked by the US to stop sending his nationals to study medicine in Cuba.

But, the US did not, however, indi-



cate whether or not it had done so previously, prior to Pierre’s last weekend statement that Washington had called on Castries to stop sending its nationals to study medicine in Havana.

“I have a big problem. Many of our doctors got trained in Cuba, and now the great United States has said we can’t do that any longer,” Pierre had told delegates attending the second World Congress on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities meeting in St Lucia.

Cuba began offering significant, full scholarships to Caribbean and Latin American students to study medicine at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana, which was officially inaugurated in 1999.

The initiative was designed to train doctors from underserved communities across the region, offering free tuition, accommodation, and boarding.

Washington has also stepped up its attack on the Cuban health brigade programme, saying that the regime in Havana “is profiting off the forced labour of medical personnel and that “renting out Cuban medical professionals at exorbitant prices and keeping the profit for regime elites is not a humanitarian gift.

“It is forced labour. It treats the doctors as commodities rather than human beings and professionals. The United States calls for an end to the Cuban regime’s coercive and exploitative labour export scheme.” (CMC)

Cuba running on empty



Cuba has been forced to shorten its workweek and scale back public services as a worsening fuel crisis, triggered by new United States (US) trade measures, places

mounting pressure on the island’s economy.

The Cuban government recently reduced the workweek by one day in an effort to con-

serve scarce fuel needed for transportation and essential services, seeking to avoid wider economic disruption.

SVG secures Japanese machinery to tackle invasive seaweed



The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently acquired roughly \$2 million in specialized machinery to combat the ongoing influx of invasive seaweed.

This initiative, supported by Japanese funding and coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme,

provides the nation with workboats, tractors, and protective gear.

The primary goal is to improve the island's environmental resilience by establishing better monitoring systems and more efficient cleanup protocols.

Officials emphasize that these resources will transform how the coun-

try handles sargassum blooms, which pose a significant threat to coastal ecosystems.

The project seeks to protect the marine environment while fostering community awareness and national readiness for climate-related challenges. (St Vincent Times)



Three murders in under four hours takes toll to 55



Three men were shot dead in two separate incidents in Valsayn and El Dorado between Saturday night and Sunday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Jesus Sergeant, Kyle Alexander, and Curtis Pierre.

In the first incident, which occurred around 9.30 p.m. on February 21, residents of El Dorado Road, Tunapuna, reported hearing loud explosions in the vicinity of Marcano Road. A silver Nissan Tiida was seen speeding away from the area shortly afterwards.

Officers responded following wireless communication from the National Operations Centre and, upon arrival, found four men suffering from gunshot wounds about their bodies. The victims were conveyed to hospital for treatment.

Eighteen-year-old Jesus Sergeant and 29-year-old Kyle Alexander, both of El Dorado Road, Tunapuna, were pronounced dead on arrival. A third victim, identified as Rivaldo Fortune, was treated and remains in a stable condition. A fourth victim also sustained gunshot injuries.

Homicide officers visited the scene and enquiries are continuing.

Hours later, at approximately 1.05

a.m. on February 22, a man was shot dead along Bamboo Boulevard, Valsayn, in the St Joseph Police District.

According to reports, the victim parked a white Toyota Hilux along Bamboo Boulevard in front of Naafa Pizza and exited the vehicle to purchase food. While dressing his pizza with condiments, a grey Nissan AD Wagon travelling north along Bamboo

Boulevard pulled alongside the Hilux and stopped.

Two masked men exited the vehicle, one armed with a rifle and the other with a pistol. They approached the victim from behind and fired several shots. The victim ran a short distance before collapsing at the corner of Bamboo Boulevard and Ramnarine Street.

The assailants reportedly stood over the wounded man and fired additional shots about his body and head before escaping north along Bamboo Boulevard in the AD Wagon.

Shortly after, two unidentified men approached the victim's vehicle. One entered and drove it away from the scene.

Pierre was later identified by relatives, who told police that he had gone to a party prior, which is believed to be the Last Jam event. Homicide officers also responded and are continuing enquiries.

The three killings takes the murder toll to 55. (Trinidad Express)

Volunteers Needed

There is still time to be a part of CHOGM 2026!

If you have been thinking about volunteering for the historic Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2026), to be hosted in St. John's, 1-4 November 2026, now is your chance!

Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs continues to invite enthusiastic, motivated, and professional individuals aged 18 or older to volunteer for this world-class event. Do not miss your chance! It is a unique opportunity to contribute your time and skills to the event's success, gain experience, and expand your network.

Interested? Complete the volunteer application form at the following link for a fulfilling and worthwhile experience:



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h7bf39zPzT>

Please note that the QR code is attached.



Mexico fears more violence after army kills leader of powerful Jalisco cartel

Several Mexican states cancelled school on Monday, with local and foreign governments warning their citizens to stay inside after widespread violence erupted following the army's killing of the powerful leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, known as 'El Mencho' was the boss of one of the fastest-growing criminal networks in Mexico, notorious for trafficking fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine to the United States and staging brazen attacks against government officials who challenged it.

He was killed during a shoot-out in his home state of Jalisco as the Mexican military attempted to capture him. Cartel members responded with violence across the country, blocking roads and setting fire to vehicles.

President Claudia Sheinbaum urged calm and authorities announced late Sunday they had cleared most of the more than 250 cartel roadblocks across 20 states.

The president was expected to address the situation at her daily news briefing Monday morning.

The White House confirmed that the U.S. provided intelligence support to the operation to capture the cartel leader and applauded Mexico's army for taking down a man who was one of the most wanted criminals in both countries.

Mexico hoped the death of the world's biggest fentanyl traffickers would ease Trump administration pressure to do more against the cartels, but many remained hunkered down and on edge as they waited to see the powerful cartel's reaction.

The Jalisco cartel has been one of the most aggressive cartels in its attacks on the military — including on helicopters — and is a pioneer in launching explosives from drones and install-



ing mines.

In 2020, it carried out a spectacular assassination attempt with grenades

and high-powered rifles in the heart of Mexico City against the then head of the capital's police force and now federal security secretary. (AP)

BEGGAE IN THE PARK 15

THE CLIMAXX BAND

TUE 21 APR	EARLY BIRD \$80	GENERAL \$120	PAY MORE AT THE GATE
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FALMOUTH RECTORY GROUNDS @ 7:00PM UNTIL
FOOD AND DRINKS ON SALE

TICKET OUTLETS

Landing Strip, Weatherill's, Pink Mongoose Studio, Rivers by Quintessence (Redcliffe Quay), Roti King, Quintessence Variety Plus (QV+, Friars Hill Road)

Australia backs removing Andrew from royal line of succession

Australia's prime minister has told Sir Keir Starmer his government would back plans to remove Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor from the line of royal succession.

Anthony Albanese expressed his support for such a proposal in a letter to the UK prime minister.

Andrew remains eighth in line to the throne despite being stripped of his titles, including "prince", in October amid pressure over his ties to paedophile financier Jeffrey Epstein.

The UK government is considering introducing legislation to remove him from the line of succession. It follows Andrew's arrest on suspicion of misconduct in public office on Thursday. He has consistently and strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

The former prince was released under investigation 11 hours after his arrest by Thames Valley Police.

Removing Andrew from the line of succession would require an act of Parliament supported by the 14 Commonwealth countries where King Charles III, his brother, is head of state, including Australia.

Albanese's letter reads: "Dear Prime Minister Starmer, in light of recent events concerning Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, I am writing to confirm that my government would agree to any proposal to remove him from the line of royal succession.

"I agree with His Majesty that the law must now take its full course and there must be a full, fair and proper investigation.

"These are grave allegations and Australians take them seriously."

Speaking after his brother Andrew's arrest, King Charles had said: "What now follows is the full, fair and proper process by which this issue is investigated in the appropriate manner



and by the appropriate authorities."

A spokesman for the UK prime minister confirmed the letter had been received and said the government was "considering whether further steps are required in relation to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor". He said they were "not ruling anything out".

"Given the ongoing police investigation it would not be appropriate for the government to comment further at this stage."

Removing Andrew from the line of succession would require an act of Parliament approved by MPs and peers, and would come into effect when given royal assent by the King.

Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand are among the Commonwealth countries who would also need to support it.

The last time someone was removed from the line of succession by an act of Parliament was in 1936, when the former Edward VIII and his descendants were removed due to his abdication.

Buckingham Palace has not publicly commented on the government's consideration of legislation to remove Andrew from the line of succession.

On Friday, Defence Minister Luke Pollard told the BBC that the move - which would prevent Andrew from ever becoming King - was the "right thing to do," regardless of the outcome of the police investigation.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury James Murray meanwhile said "any questions in that sphere would be quite complicated", adding that the live police investigation needed to "play out".

The former prince was arrested at 08:00 GMT on Thursday at Sandringham, the King's Norfolk estate where Andrew has been living since leaving his Windsor home, Royal Lodge, in early February.

Police searches at Sandringham concluded late on Thursday. It is understood they continued at the 30-room property in Windsor over the weekend, where several unmarked police cars were seen on Saturday.

Andrew has previously denied any wrongdoing in relation to Epstein. He has not responded to the BBC's requests for comment on specific allegations that have emerged after the US release of millions of files in January connected to the late financier's case. (BBC)



Snowfall intensifies in Northeast, with many stuck at home under blizzard warnings and travel bans

Millions of people in New York City and a large swath of the northeastern U.S. were stuck at home under road travel bans and blizzard warnings Monday as heavy snow and strong winds intensified, creating whiteout conditions in the densely populated region.

Snow fell at a rate of 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.6 centimeters) an hour early Monday from New York through Massachusetts. Some areas have gotten well over a foot (30 centimeters) of snow since Sunday, along with wind gusts of over 30 mph (48 kph) and low visibility.

In New York, Long Island MacArthur Airport reported 22.5 inches (57 centimeters) of snow as of Monday morning. About 18 inches (46 centimeters) was reported in Newark, New Jersey, and about 15 inches (38 centimeters) fell in New York City's Central Park. New London, Connecticut, and North Kingstown, Rhode Island, both got 17 inches of snow (43 centimeters).

The National Weather Service called travel conditions "nearly impossible."

Blizzard warnings stretched from Maryland to Maine. Cellphones across New York City received wailing push alerts Sunday night announcing a ban on non-emergency travel on all streets through noon Monday because of "dangerous blizzard conditions." Rhode Island and New Jersey implemented similar restrictions.

More than 5,000 flights in and out of the United States were canceled for Monday, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware. Most were canceled in New York, New Jersey and Boston.

Public transit was suspended in

some areas. Even DoorDash announced it was suspending deliveries in New York City overnight.

The storm caused power outages that left more than 500,000 customers in the dark along the East Coast early Monday, including over 212,000 customers in Massachusetts and 128,000 customers in New Jersey, according to PowerOutage.us, which tracks outages nationwide.

About 10,000 customers were without power Monday morning on suburban Long Island. New York Gov.

Kathy Hochul said utility crews will restore power as soon as possible, but winds of 50 mph (kph 80) or higher could delay action.

"The line men and women are not going up there to restore power if they have to go up on a power line. So ... people have to understand that we will do it as soon as it's safe to have that occur," Hochul told PIX11 in New York.

Emergencies were declared in New York, Philadelphia and other cities, as well as several states stretching

NOTICE

**TO: The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua**

**TO: Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR
BUSINESS REGISTERED AS "TML MINI MART"**

I, Elias Katrib, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's Antigua on Tuesday 7th April, 2026 next ensuing for a bottle license in respect of premises known as "TML Mini Mart" situated at Coolidge, in the parish of St. George's, Antigua pursuant to section 11(3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

**Dated the 23rd day of February. 2026
Tel :1268-726-4400**

.....
Elias Katrib

International

AROUND THE WORLD



from Delaware to Massachusetts as officials mobilized readiness efforts.

“The combination of heavy snowfall and strong winds will continue to produce blizzard conditions along the Northeastern Seaboard,” the weather service said Monday. “Sharply reduced visibility will make travel extremely treacherous across these areas.”

The weather service referred to the storm as a “classic bomb cyclone/nor’easter off the Northeast coast.” A bomb cyclone is when a storm drops at least 24 millibars in pressure in 24 hours.

Millions of people in New York City and a large swath of the northeastern U.S. were stuck at home under road travel bans and blizzard warnings on Monday as a fierce winter storm barreled into the densely populated region with heavy snowfall and high winds.

The weather service said the snow was expected to taper off by Monday afternoon.

New York City and Boston canceled public school classes for Monday, while Philadelphia will switch to online learning. New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani called it the “first old-school snow day since 2019.”

“And to kids across New York City, you have a very serious mission if you choose to accept it: Stay cozy,” he said.

Meanwhile, outreach workers worked to coax homeless New Yorkers off the street and into shelters and warming centers.

Various landmarks and cultural institutions announced closures Monday, from New York’s Museum of Modern Art to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Broadway shows were canceled Sunday evening.

The weather service said the storm’s strong wind gusts could cause white-

out conditions and warned of a “Potentially Historic/Destructive Storm” southeast of the Boston-Providence corridor.

“Winds like that, combined with heavy, wet snow, are a recipe for damaged trees and prolonged power outages,” said Bryce Williams, a meteorologist with the weather service’s Boston office. “That’s what we’re most concerned with, is the combination of those extreme snow amounts with that wind.”

In addition to their robust plow operations, New York City officials recruited people to shovel snow, with some beginning work Sunday night to get an early start on the first wave of snowfall, Mamdani said.

John Berlingieri scrapped plans for a family trip to Puerto Rico. Instead he was preparing his company, Berrington Snow Management, for what could well be a mammoth task: Clearing snow from millions of square feet (meters) of asphalt surrounding shopping malls and industrial parks across Long Island.

Employees spent the last few days recharging batteries on the company’s 40 front-end loaders and replacing windshield wipers on snow-removal vehicles.

“I’m anticipating at least one week of work around the clock,” Berlingieri said. “We’re going to work 24 to 36 hours straight, sleep for a few hours and then go back.” (AP)

NOTICE

**TO: The Chief Magistrate
District “A”
High Street
St.John’s
Antigua**

**The Licensing Magistrate
St.John’s Magistrate Court
Gray’s Farm
St.John’s Antigua**

**TO: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
Antigua**

I, Sunnil Vivian Earl Braithwaite, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street in the city of Saint John Antigua and Barbuda on the 7th day of April, 2026 for a Real license for my premises known as Sly’s Water Sports And Boat Charters situated on Deep Bay in the city of Saint John. Antigua & Barbuda, Pursuant to section 11 (a) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

**Dated the 18th day of February. 2025
Tel :1268-772-5503**

.....
Sunnil V. E. Braithwaite

BBC sorry for airing racial slur shouted by guest with Tourette's at Baftas



The BBC has apologised for not editing out a racial slur from its Bafta Film Awards coverage after a guest with Tourette's syndrome shouted out when two black actors were on stage.

John Davidson, whose life story inspired the film *I Swear*, shouted the N-word as *Sinners* stars Michael B Jordan and Delroy Lindo presented the first prize of Sunday's ceremony.

The moment was not edited out of the BBC One broadcast, which was shown on a two-hour delay, and remained on BBC iPlayer on Monday morning before being removed.

A BBC spokesperson said: "We apologise that this was not edited out

prior to broadcast and it will now be removed from the version on BBC iPlayer."

The shout was audible in the broadcast, although many viewers would have struggled to make out the word.

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch told *Good Morning Britain* the BBC had made "a horrible mistake" by not editing it out at the time, adding: "I think an apology is important, they need to explain why it wasn't bleeped out."

In its statement, the BBC said: "Some viewers may have heard strong and offensive language during the Bafta Film Awards.

"This arose from involuntary verbal tics associated with Tourette syndrome, and as explained during the ceremony it was not intentional."

Tourette's is characterised by sudden, involuntary and repetitive movements or sounds, known as tics.

Between 10% and 30% of people with the condition have tics that produce socially unacceptable words such as swearing, according to the Tourette's Action charity.

Davidson, a Tourette's campaigner from Galashiels in Scotland, who was made an MBE in 2019, shouted loudly several times before and during the Bafta ceremony.

Host Alan Cumming later told the audience: "You may have heard some strong and offensive language tonight. If you have seen the film *I Swear*, you will know that film is about the experience of a person with Tourette's syndrome.

"Tourette's syndrome is a disability and the tics you have heard tonight are involuntary, which means the person who has Tourette syndrome has no control over their language. We apologise if you were offended."

Davidson left the ceremony part-way through the proceedings, reportedly of his own accord.



International

AROUND THE WORLD

Hannah Beachler, the production designer from the film *Sinners*, wrote on X: “The situation is almost impossible, but it happened 3 times that night, and one of the three times was directed at myself on the way to dinner after the show.

“I understand and deeply know why this is an impossible situation. I know we must handle this with grace and continue to push through.

“But what made the situation worse was the throw away apology of ‘if you were offended’ at the end of the show. Of course we were offended.”

Jordan’s former co-star on *The Wire*, Wendell Pierce, posted: “It’s infuriating that the first reaction wasn’t complete and full throated apologies to Delroy Lindo and Michael B Jordan.

“The insult to them takes priority. It doesn’t matter the reasoning for the racist slur.”

Oscar winner Jamie Foxx added in a comment posted on Instagram that the slur had been “unacceptable”.

Speaking to BBC News afterwards,

Robert Aramayo, who won best actor for playing Davidson in *I Swear*, said: “They’re tics, he [Davidson] is ticking, and we have to understand that the way we perceive Tourette’s is a joint responsibility.

“It’s not shouting obscenities, it’s not being abusive, it’s Tourette’s and they’re tics.

“So if it can lead to a deeper understanding of Tourette’s syndrome and what tics actually are, if our movie is a part of that conversation, then that’s a really incredible thing.”

Pippa McClounan, communications manager of Tourette’s Action, told BBC News: “What we’ve got to try and remember is, as much as these words do cause hurt and shock in people, it’s really vital that the public understands a fundamental truth about Tourette’s syndrome, that the tics are involuntary, and they are in no way reflection of what that person is thinking and their beliefs.

“It’s not a what their intention is or what their character’s like. It’s involuntary. It’s a neurological condition.

It’s so complex to try and understand why this happens.”

Such tics, called coprolalia, affect a minority of people with Tourette’s, she said.

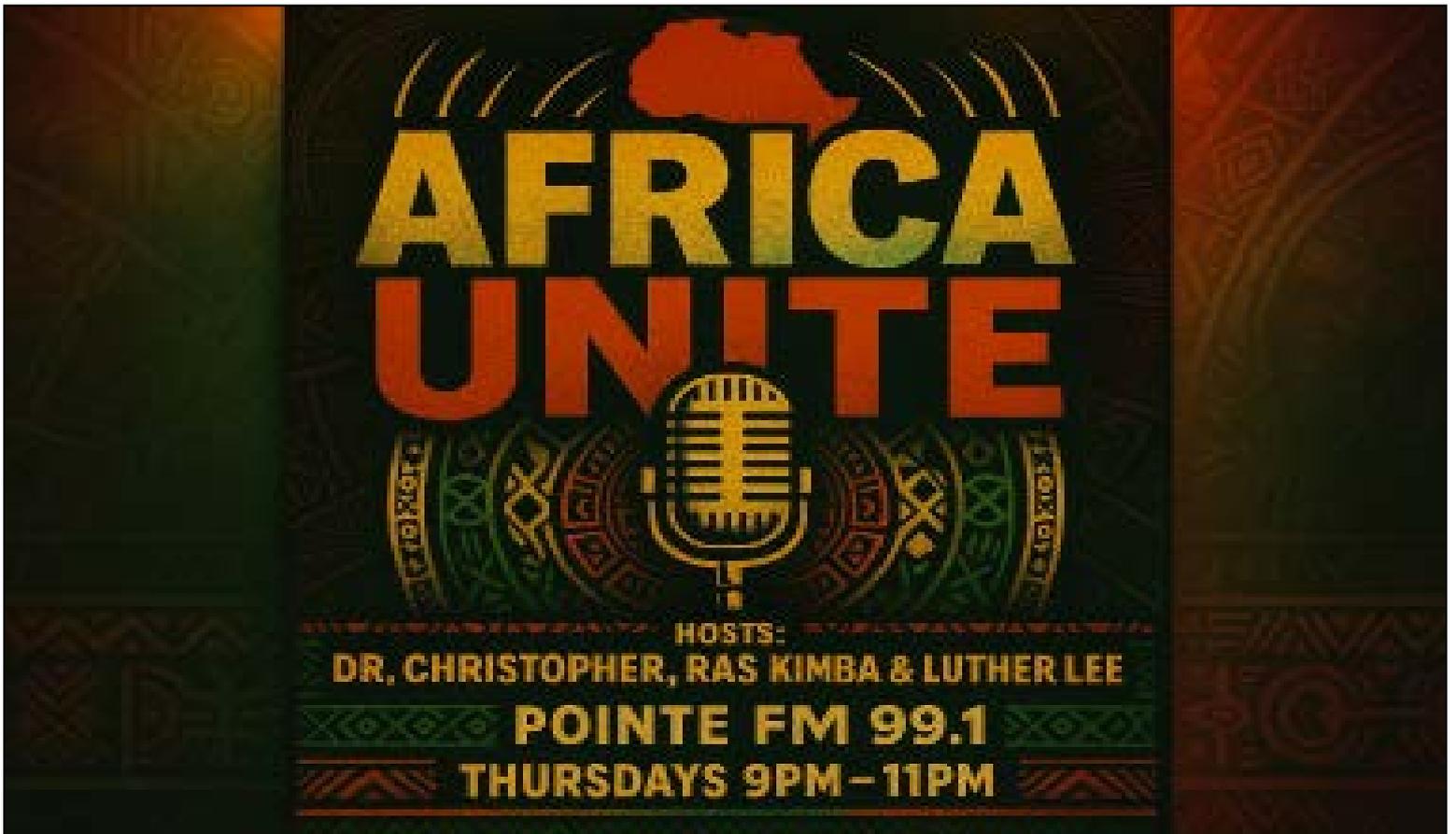
“This is what John lives with every day of his life. It’s not just one occasion at an award ceremony. This is his life, and the backlash that he experiences throughout his life you see in the film.

“We hope that people who are reading and maybe commenting on it will also take the time to watch the film, learn about Tourette’s, and understand the experiences behind those moments.”

I Swear follows Davidson’s struggle growing up with Tourette’s in 1980s Scotland.

Davidson was awarded his MBE for his efforts to increase understanding of the condition and help families deal with it.

As well as best actor, Aramayo, from Hull, also received the Baftas’ Rising Star prize, and *I Swear* won best casting. (BBC)



AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1
THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM



SUPER 8 ALL FIXTURES

Saturday, 21 February	NEW ZEALAND		V		PAKISTAN	Colombo
Sunday, 22 February	SRI LANKA		V		ENGLAND	Kandy
Sunday, 22 February	INDIA		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Ahmedabad
Monday, 23 February	ZIMBABWE		V		WEST INDIES	Mumbai
Tuesday, 24 February	ENGLAND		V		PAKISTAN	Kandy
Wednesday, 25 February	SRI LANKA		V		NEW ZEALAND	Colombo
Thursday, 26 February	WEST INDIES		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Ahmedabad
Thursday, 26 February	INDIA		V		ZIMBABWE	Chennai
Friday, 27 February	ENGLAND		V		NEW ZEALAND	Colombo
Saturday, 28 February	SRI LANKA		V		PAKISTAN	Kandy
Sunday, 1 March	ZIMBABWE		V		SOUTH AFRICA	Delhi
Sunday, 1 March	INDIA		V		WEST INDIES	Kolkata
Wednesday, 4 March	SEMI FINAL 1		Kolkata/Colombo			
Thursday, 5 March	SEMI FINAL 2		Mumbai			
Sunday, 8 March	FINAL		Ahmedabad/Colombo			

Stingerz ends Ovals Ojays unbeaten run in ABBA's Division 1 League



The Cuties Ovals Ojays' unbeaten start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 League came to an abrupt end on Sunday night.

After winning their previous three matches, the Ovals Ojays lost for the first time in four matches in a 99-

110 defeat to the Lava Smoke Elite Stingerz in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Joshua Minner produced 28 points, 14 rebounds, and five assists, and Keroi Lee sank 20 points and grabbed 21 rebounds to lead the Stingerz to their fourth win in five games.

In support, Brycen Thomas produced 17 points, eight rebounds, and six assists; Darnell Azille converted 16 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; and Jaheem James scored 16 points for the Stingerz.

Jabari Smith produced 28 points, six rebounds, and five assists; Kareem Edwards converted 24 points and snatched eight rebounds; and Sam Taylor chipped in with 21 points, nine assists, and five steals for the Ovals Ojays.

Da Project claimed their third win in six encounters by pulling off an 85-75 victory over defending champions EZ Fit Flyers in Sunday's opening games.

T-Shawn Lewis sank 18 points and claimed nine rebounds; Cornell Greenwood had 17 points and eight rebounds; Malik Moore contributed 17 points and seven rebounds; and Terry Dawkins scored 13 points for Da Project.

Adonis Humphrey sank 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and TJ Williams converted 15 points to lead the Flyers.

In support, Kwame Brathwaite produced 12 points and nine rebounds, Kenya Achom had 11 points and six rebounds, and Xavier Meade chipped in with nine points and seven rebounds for the Flyers, who lost for the second time in five games.

AGS gets second win in Secondary Schools Cricket T20 contest

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) has maintained their successful start to their campaign in the T20 Competition in the Under-19 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Cricket Championship.

After crushing Sir Novelle Richards Academy by 152 runs in their opening-round encounter, the Antigua Grammar School made it two wins in as many games by pulling off a seven-wicket victory over Clare Hall Secondary at the Antigua Grammar School playing field.

Clare Hall Secondary

crashed to 52 all out in 13.3 overs, with Jayden Charles getting 10. Isaiah Harris claimed three wickets for five runs, and Marc Crawford captured two wickets for five runs.

Antigua Grammar School achieved victory at 56 for three, with Leonaldo Ducey hitting 23. It was the first defeat for Clare Hall Secondary School, which snatched a 13-run victory against Jennings Secondary in their opening match.

Keno Goodwin slammed a century as Pares Secondary School crushed Sir Novelle Richards Academy by 100 runs in their encounter at the

Factory Grounds.

Pares Secondary made 180 for three in 19 overs after being sent in to bat. Goodwin retired out after slamming 105 off 64 balls, including 11 fours and two sixes.

Captain William Pitman struck 39 off 30 balls, and Tayari Tonge hit 21 not out off 14 balls.

In reply, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy was restricted to 80 for eight off their allotted 19 overs. Captain Shaun Balgobin hit 24, and Sherwin Martin scored 15.

Javaughn Freeland snapped up four for 13, and William

Pitman picked up two for 11.

The Princess Margaret School recorded an eight-wicket victory over Jennings Secondary School at Rising Sun.

Jennings Secondary School was restricted to 47 for eight off 13 overs. Elijah Miller grabbed four for 14, and Akez France claimed three wickets for three runs.

Princess Margaret School wrapped up victory by scoring 48 without losing any wickets in five overs. Kerique Mentore hit an unbeaten 31 off 15 balls, and Ondre Peters scored 13 not out.

Teams get important wins in ABCA two-day championship

The Jennings Tigers, Empire Nation, and CMW New Winthorpes Lions all won in the sixth round of matches over the weekend to enhance their chances of reaching the final of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship.

All three teams are tied in joint second place with 45 points, 21 adrift of unbeaten leaders and four-peat defending champions, the PIC Insurance Blackhawks.

The Jennings Tigers claimed their third win with a 10-wicket victory over the WES Rising Sun Spartans at Jennings. Set 10 runs to win, the Tigers wrapped up victory by scoring 13 without the loss of any wickets.

The Spartans were dismissed for 163 in 42.2 overs after being sent in to bat. Shadrack Descarte struck 47, and Anthony Pierre got 30. Captain and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams snapped up six for 30, and Zavier Freeland took three for 64.

The Tigers took an 88-run first innings lead by making 251 all out in 49 overs. Williams hammered 75, Paul Miller hit 37, and opener Malique Jacobs cracked 32. Descarte captured four for 48, and pacer Trevorson Atley took three for 52.

Bassanio Joseph grabbed eight for 53 as the Spartans crashed to 97 all out in 25.1 overs in their second innings.

West Indies Under-19 player Tanez Francis smashed an unbeaten double century as Empire Nation secured their second win with a crushing innings and 117-run victory over the Bolans Blasters at Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park in St. John's.

Empire Nation declared their first innings at 406 for five in 61.5 overs, with Francis hitting 225 not out off



Tanez Francis of Empire Nation

191 balls, including 29 boundaries. JQuan Athanaze struck 66, and Dhari Francis scored 64.

In response, the Bolans Blasters were all out for 136 in 26.5 overs. Orlando Peters made 45. Dhari Francis bagged three for 24, and Ajharie Joseph claimed three for 39.

Asked to follow on 270 runs behind, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed in their second innings for 153 in 44.4 overs. Peters hit 40, and Javaughn James scored 34. Left-arm seamer Yanique Watley bagged five for 37.

The New Winthorpes Lions notched up their third win with a commanding innings and 45-run victory over the All Saints Pythons in New Winthorpes.

Scores: All Saints Pythons 135 all out in 32.4 overs (Kenrick Scott 78; Demari Benta 3/27, Jedidiah Martin 3/39) and 130 all out in 30.4 overs (Demari Benta 5/21, Ishmael Peters 3/43; New Winthorpes Lions 310 all out in 55 overs (Demari Benta 140, Jedidiah Martin 39).

The Liberta Blackhawks consolidated their position at the top of the standing by recording their fifth



Glenton Williams of Jennings Tigers

win in six matches with an innings and 116-run victory over Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at Bethesda.

Scores: Bethesda Golden Eagles 124 all out in 35.1 overs (Kevin Pitman 67; Michael Greaves 5/46) and 125 all out in 29.4 overs (Tron Payne 46; Michael Greaves 5/32, Kofi James 3/40); Liberta Blackhawks 365/8 declared in 60.1 overs (Karima Gore 84, Elroy Francis Jr. 62, Kofi James 46, Brent Joseph 44, Joshua Thomas 34, Michael Greaves 31; Keno Goodwin 3/129).

Tertiary Institutions and Schools claimed their second win with a six-wicket victory against the Pigotts Crushers at the Factory Grounds.

Scores: Pigotts Crushers 205 all out in 50.3 overs (Essan Warner 64, Amahl Nathaniel 34, Uri Smith 31; Kaivalya Mishra 3/48) and 81 all out in 26.3 overs (Malique Walsh 37; Kaivalya Mishra 6/16); Tertiary Institutions and Schools 200 all out in 47 overs (Giovente Depeiza 127; Miandre James 3/25, Jared Jno Baptiste 3/42) and 87/4 in 18.3 overs (Giovente Depeiza 45 not out).

ABNDA closes 2025 season with awards ceremony



Kemisha Charles of Triple Dynamite, left, and Kaid Jarvis of Bolans Revellers, right, accept their award for winning the 500 Pairs from second vice-president of the ABNDA Frank Govia. (Photos courtesy of the ABNDA)



Second place winners in the Mixed Pairs Devon Graham, left, and Natasha Edwards of the Willikies Superstars accept their award from second vice-president of the ABNDA Frank Govia.

The Antigua Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) wrapped up its 2025 domestic season with the presentation and awards ceremony on Saturday.

Awards were presented to the outstanding teams and individuals during the 2025 season.

The Willikies Superstars were rewarded for winning the year's first team three-hand tournament. Full Clip claimed the runners-up medals, while Eagles captured the third-place bronze.

The Willikies Superstars also won the opening team four-hand tournament. Dominatrixx copped second place, and the Bolans Revellers claimed third place.

Prizes were also presented to the outstanding performers in the ABDNA Independence Classic.

Full Clip claimed top honours in the team three-

hand contest, with Highly Favoured grabbing second place and the Willikies Superstars finishing third.

The Legacy club duo of Francine Hector and Bernia Richards secured the female pairs title. Lorain Richardson and Natasha Edwards of the Willikies Superstars took the runner-up spot, and Renee Ralph of the Willikies Superstars and Adella John of Ramplers combined their efforts to capture third place.

The Double Six club duo of Renfield Davis and Michael Roach won the male pairs crown. Ed Carty and Andy Charles of Willikies Superstars came in second, and Jason King and Justice Leslie of Willikies Superstars finished in third place.

Lenroy Richards of Parham Strikers and Sonika Regis of Double Six pooled their efforts to clinch the mixed pairs title. Devon Graham and Natasha Ed-

wards of the Willikies Superstars claimed the silver medals, and Carol-Faye Bynoe and Kenney Baptiste of Supa Sonix captured the bronze medals.

Britney Farrell and Glenroy Farrell of Willikies Superstars joined forces to win the president's pair title. Kaid Jarvis of Bolans Revellers and Kemisha Charles of Triple Dynamite took second place, and Jason King and Sharon Matthew of Willikies Superstars finished in third place.

Kaid Jarvis of Bolans Revellers and Kemisha Charles of Triple Dynamite once again teamed up and won the 500 pairs contest.

Ronald Isaac of Willikies Superstars and Kenisha Hatton of Highly Favoured came in second, and Johnny Joseph and Surleen Samuel of Highly Favoured finished in third place.

Renee Ralph of Willikies Superstars won the Queen

of Domino contest. Natasha Edwards of Willikies Superstars came second, and Omone Brathwaite of De Unstoppable came in third.

Keith Johannes of Full Clip captured the King of Domino title, with Dale Henry of Double Six securing second place and Ken Joseph of Full Clip finishing in third place.

Meanwhile, the ABNDA will elect a new executive to administrate its affairs for the next two-year term at its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 28.

Carol Faye Bynoe of Willikies Super Stars was elected as president of the ABNDA in 2024 and is not expected to seek re-election for the top post.

Bynoe, who previously served as the organization's public relations officer, was chosen as president of the ABNDA during its Annual General Meeting on March 23, 2024.

Stingray City Eastsiders off to winning start in ABNA President's Cup

The Stingray City Eastsiders have made a successful start to their campaign in the Female Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Autocraze President's Cup.

The Eastsiders launched their campaign by recording a 33-20 victory over SW Electronics Black Lightning Snipers in their opening encounter at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

Christina Lloyd sank 15 of her 23 shots, Shakora Prince converted 12 of her 18 attempts, and Tashana Bloomfield scored six of their eight tries for the Eastsiders.

Zhanira Pereira sank 15 of her 23 attempts, Khaiva Knowles scored three of her seven shots, and Joy Shaw converted two of her six tries for the Black Lightning Snipers.

The Roman Hill Legacy also made a winning start to their campaign in the Mixed Division. The Legacy won by default against Gray's Green Flyballers, who failed to show up for their opening encounter.

The four teams are contesting the fe-



The Stingray City Eastsiders netball team

male division, while three teams will battle for supremacy in the mixed division.

Each team will play three matches in

the female division, while each team will play two matches in the mixed division. The top team at the end of the round-robin matches will be declared winners of each division.

West Indies crush Zimbabwe in T20 World Cup



West Indies' Shimron Hetmyer hits a six during the T20 World Cup cricket match between Zimbabwe and West Indies in Mumbai, India, Monday, Feb. 23, 2026. (AP)

MUMBAI (Reuters) - Shimron Hetmyer scored a 19-ball half-century as his scorching knock of 85 led West Indies to a dominant 107-run win over Zimbabwe in their first Super Eights match at the Twenty20 World Cup in India on Monday, continuing the two-time champions' winning run.

Hetmyer scored the fastest fifty by a West Indian at a T20 World Cup as the two-time champions posted a mammoth total of 254 for six in Mumbai, the second-highest total in the tournament's history after Sri Lanka's 260 for six against Kenya in 2007.

Zimbabwe were all out for 147 as Gudakesh Motie took four wickets, sending two-time champions West Indies to the top of the Group One

table thanks to a better net run rate than South Africa, who had beaten India on Sunday.

Zimbabwe's decision to bowl first initially paid off with opener Brandon King falling in the third over. Blessing Muzarabani almost got Hetmyer out in the next over, but Tashinga Musekiwa dropped a flat pull shot at long on.

Player-of-the-match Hetmyer hit five sixes in the last six deliveries he faced before completing his half-century in the eighth over, with West Indies looking strong at 92 for two.

Musekiwa dropped Hetmyer again at the same position in the 12th over, when the 29-year-old had scored 70 runs.

Rovman Powell (59 off 35 balls) stood by Hetmyer to add 122 runs for

the third wicket, until Hetmyer finally fell in the 15th over, having hit seven fours and seven sixes to score 85 off 34 balls, his personal best in T20 internationals.

Sherfane Rutherford piled further misery on Zimbabwe, scoring an unbeaten 31 from 13 balls as West Indies added 46 runs in their last three overs.

Needing to chase a tournament-record 255, Zimbabwe lost three batters within five deliveries when Akeal Hosein took two wickets in a maiden over to leave the African side at 20 for three after three overs.

Dion Myers (28 off 15 balls) put up a fight, but was bowled by a flighted ball from spinner Motie, who claimed four for 28, with Zimbabwe 52 for four in the seventh over.

Motie also bowled Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza (27) and Musekiwa in back-to-back deliveries, before getting Tony Munyonga (14) caught at deep midwicket, demolishing the middle order.

Facing certain defeat, Brad Evans made a defiant last stand, scoring a quick 43 to reduce the Caribbean side's margin of victory as Zimbabwe suffered their first loss in the tournament.

Zimbabwe will face defending champions India in a battle to bounce back on Thursday, the same day West Indies play last edition's finalists South Africa.